(83) 24 Sept 1917

Charleston

Monday

My Billy.

I wish you could have managed this week as I fear next is rather difficult. I'm not quite sure what's happening as it depends to some extent on the governess question. But I think it's very likely I may have to go to London for a night or two to see a selection of governesses. Also I may have to give Quentin a holiday then - altogether it seems a little chaotic. When do you go back? Perhaps if you can't come here this week Roger & I could come over one day to tea. either Thursday or Friday. He's buying a bicycle so it will be quite easy. He comes tomorrow & Barbara stays till

Wednesday. I'm afraid he'll be rather cross at finding her still here but she apparently can't get her tent etc packed & despatched earlier

Thank you very much for asking your woman. I wonder if she has decided yet. I should want her permanently, that is like all else, till the end of the war. I want a house parlour maid. But there is practically no parlour work. She need not wait at table, only bring the courses in when I ring. Otherwise it is all house maids work. There will be 4 bedrooms to do each morning. except when we have visitors when there would be one or two more. 2 sitting rooms in the winter

£ 3 in the summer. That is all. It's not a great deal of work. a certain amount of sewing & he shared with Bessie. Wages I suppose about £24. but I won't haggle over them as £2 or £3 a year doesn't make much difference. There would of course be no cooking at all to do. Is the niece a farm capable & do you think she'd come? If you could let me know soon I'd be glad. I cry goes on the 13th of October. If she won't come could you write to Nelly? but I fear that's rather a forlorn hope.

We have been busy all day at Greens dressing but at last they are done & Duncan has taken them away with him.. I don't

Now what to suggest about the woodcuts. It seems rather impossible & I daresay the only way really would be. for us to have them printed by a small printer who would not I suppose charge very much. It's probable however I see that we should never have the energy to underlake the circulars etc.

If its possible do come this week. not that I should see you with Ropes here so I don't know that it's worth the trouble for you - but perhaps it wouldn't be tactful for us to come to you.

Yours VB

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

(84) Charleston (27 Sept) 1917

Thursday

My Billy.

Do please come for the night tomorrow. In so far I could let you know about today but really its almost impossible to communicate with you. It would be much the nicest way of seeing you if you'd come for the night & Roger would be only too delighted. You know he has a foolish admiration for you

Yes, I could wait for

your woman, only I
hope shell make up her
mind soon as I shall
have to try for some one
else if she can't come.
I wrote at once to your
Oxford young lady. What
a brilliant find. Too
good to be true I fear.
I'm also in touch with
Oldhams, Groeners who is
leaving — a Swiss.
In fearful haste
Your V B

(85) Charleston. (1917)

Oct 17

My Billy.

Will you be an angel & do some dirty work for me - which is to see house-maids if any turn up? I am rather in despair. My nanny goes on Saturday & I have got no one & no one in prospect. I am writing to Mrs Hunt in the faint hope that some may be flying up from air-raids. & I said that you would write to her & tele her when you could see any - It only means saying that you would be

in at certain times so that she could send away to see you. I fear no one will come. If they do however could you give them as good an account as possible of this place. I fear nothing can make it very attractive to a servant. You can say it's safe from air raids, right in the country but within easy reach of Eastbourne & Brighton. The work is not hard. I call it a house-parlour-maids' place but as a matter of fact there's very little parlour work & no waiting at table in the house. Wages anything

up to £28. I don't mind having a young woman who wants training but I think she must be at least 21 & be some kind of company for those who I'm left may leave at any moment

The processes comes on Monday a week earlier than I had expected. It's rather difficult for me to come up again at once in consequence. But I'd willingly trust your instincts about anyone. Of course I'd much prefer it if only Nelly or Lottie knew some one but I see there's no chance of that ever -

Mrs Hunts address is

Marylebone High St. W.

How awful these domestic crises are. I simply loathe them. I shall get letters from servants wanting to come! I'd no idea that would be such an easy job. Evidently servants are far more difficult.

Adrian is here, apparently quite as well as usual. He got leave till Nov. 15th. Karin has also come up today to tomorrow. Adrian was here for nine days alone & was very much more himself without her. He's an odd creature, getting rather crusty I think, very old fashioned in an odd way. Has anything happened about Leonard?

Yours VB

(86)

Charleston

Friday

(1917)
19 Oct.

My Billy.

After all I have got a servant! I decided off hand to see me at Ripe. rather hopelessly. but she turned out to be very nice, willing to come for £22. & I just nipped in before she had accepted another place. Wasn't it good luck? So now you need not write about Mrs Hunt (to whom I am writing) & it will be quite easy to have you in the 31st. - It's the greatest blessing to get my household established & I feel in peaceful luck considering how everyone is clamouring for servants. Would you mind being discreet

with Barbara? I had asked her to come here for the next full moon but I wrote yesterday & said we could not have her as I should almost certainly be without a servant. I shall have to write again & tell her I have not one I suppose, but I thought if you were going to offer to lend Ashcham to her & Saxon for his holiday, which I imagine he means to take about then, perhaps you could do so before I write, as she'd then accept you & not want to come here - But perhaps you're not going to lend it? Could you let me know? We've had such a lot of her this summer that I don't want to have her if I can help it.

I wonder if you'll get her to do

the printing. It's a blessing Alix collapsed so soon.

I'd have given anything to see you Roger & Ott at tea together. It must have been amusing. Thank you for your compliments Billy - which I appreciate very much. But I think you had already seen all the works of mine at Heals. mostly rather ancient ones. I hope to have some more up to date ones at the Omega show - so will Duncan I hope.

You'll come on the 31st then & bring knitting if you like but you know I'm ready for any amount of skirmishing. I hope by then the children will be settled down with Miss Edwards & we shall be free to sit & talk undisturbed

Yours V B.

(87)

Charleston

(23 Oct) (1917)

Tuesday

My Baby.

It was very kind of you to take so much trouble for me. Thank goodness it wasn't necessary to fall back upon your consumptive female – nor the woman with 2 children whom Roger proposed. Miss Edwards is here. very pretty. rather brisk & independent. I think the children like her & I hope she'll settle down but I see she thinks us all very queer. However I believe she puts it down to our being artists. Luckily

that accounts for practically anything.

I do hope you will come here & not go to Askham as I know I should not see you at all there. & here we really should be undisturbed. My new housemaid comes today. & with the governess & her I shall be very free. The children do lessons all the morning. So for walks in the afternoon. & I have all the time to myself. If you like you can have a room at the top of the house where you could work peacefully. & come down to talk to me when you want

to.

You have saved me from Saxon & Barbara I see. I only hope they won't be a plague to you. But Saxon will be quite happy at Ashcham won't he & he can come over to meals when he wants to. & very likely I suppose Barbara will be there too.

Let me know if you come here & if you come straight from London the best plan is to go to Berwick & order a taxi there from Sutton. Station Inn. Berwick It's only 4/- or of course you

can walk from Glynde. I'd
meet you & your luggage
could come up by the
milk cart. Come when you
like & for as long as you
can.

I'm hoping to hear all
about Wattie. Don't drop
him on any account.

Love VB

T. PARSONS & SONS